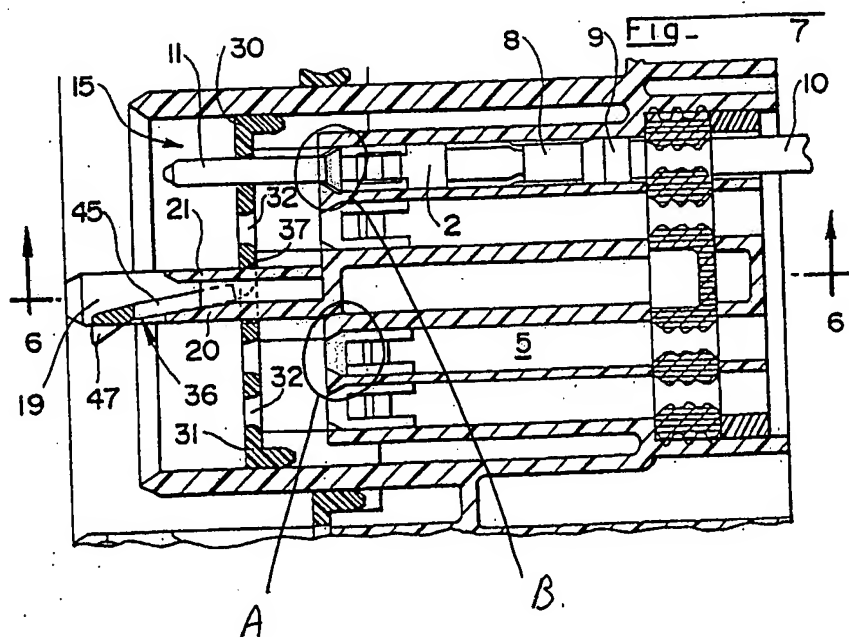


REMARKS

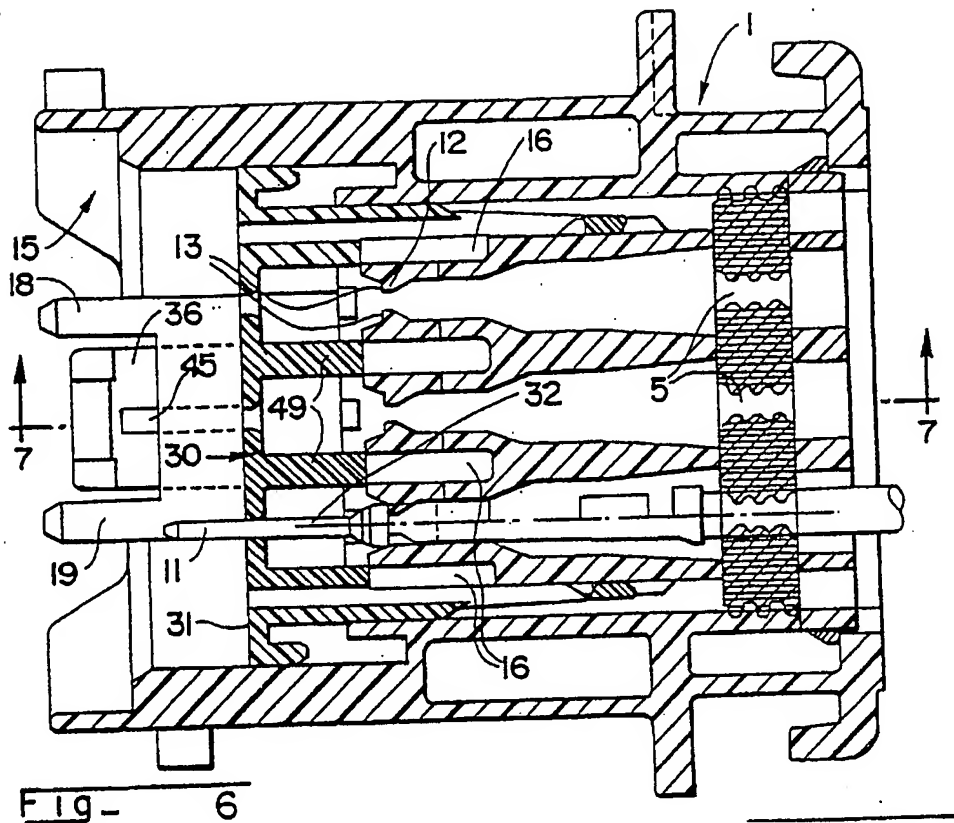
Claims 1-9 have been amended above to clarify the claim language. Except for one change in claim 1, these changes are unrelated to patentability of the claims over the cited art.

Claims 1-2 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ittah (US 5,575,685). The examiner is requested to reconsider this rejection.

The examiner indicated that "30" in Ittah is a second locking device for second contacts. "30" in Ittah is a locking key (also known as a terminal position assurance "TPA" member). As can be seen in Fig. 7 (repeated below with annotations), each passage 5 of the housing member 1 has a conical front end A which acts as a front stop for the cone shaped portion of the contact 2 as shown at area B.



As shown in fig. 6 repeated below, the locking key 30, when moved inward as shown in Fig. 8, merely locks the locking members 12 in their locked position.



Claim 1, as amended, claims a first locking device adapted to directly lock **only** the first contacts with the housing, and a second locking device adapted to lock the second contacts with the housing. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Ittah that locking members 12 are adapted to directly lock **only** first contacts with the housing while locking key 30 forms a second locking device adapted to lock second contacts with the housing. With applicants' invention, as illustrated by the

example embodiment in the drawings, first locking device 5 is adapted to directly lock only the first contacts 3, while second locking device 6 is adapted to lock the second contacts 4 with the housing. There is no disclosure or suggestion of this in Ittah. The features of claim 1 are not disclosed or suggested in the cited art. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though the claims dependent upon claim 1 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 1. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

Claims 10-20 have been added above to claim the features recited therein. For example, claim 10 claims that the second contacts are "different" second contacts.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Appl. No.: 10/583,287
Reply to Office Action of: 10/03/2007

Respectfully submitted,

Mark F. Harrington 1/25/08
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on the date shown below in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

1/25/2008
Date

Paul Murray
Name of Person Making Deposit